

STATEMENT FROM FATHER JACK MARTIN, BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH:

As a parish priest in the City of Newark, I am constantly made aware of the relationship between the income people receive and their basic need for food, shelter, health care and education.

I support the need for a strong rent control law. The law we now have provides tenants with some protection, while at the same time, allowing landlords the mechanism for increases if they need them.

The current proposal to change the law undermines the intention of the rent control law. For some tenants it will mean their rents will be increased without limit. The vacancy decontrol section will result, as it has in nearby towns, in landlord harassment to force tenants out, and in higher rents, rents Newark residents cannot afford.

I support the efforts of the Coalition To Save Rent Control to strengthen rent control. It is the one protection tenants have.